

# EMA Licensing Branch FAQ

## Topic: Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators (COPR) COPR Entry to Practice Written Exam

### **Q – What is COPR?**

A – COPR is the Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators. It is comprised of self-regulating colleges and government or government delegated regulators of the paramedic profession in Canada. More information about COPR can be found [here](#).

### **Q – Why is BC moving to the COPR entry to practice exam for Primary Care Paramedics (PCPs) and Advanced Care Paramedics (ACPs)?**

A – The move to the COPR entry to practice exam ensures that BC's PCPs and ACPs are licensed using a rigorous, defensible and current examination that is aligned with the competencies required of all paramedics in Canada (NOCPs).

### **Q – What is the COPR entry to practice exam based on?**

A – The COPR entry to practice exam is based on the 2011 NOCPs.

### **Q – What are the NOCPs?**

A – NOCPs are the National Occupational Competency Profile, which defines the competencies of paramedics and emergency medical responders in Canada. You can download the 2011 NOCPs [here](#).

### **Q – Is there a cost for the COPR entry to practice exam?**

A – The COPR entry to practice exam costs \$650 per attempt.

### **Q – How many attempts will I have to successfully complete the COPR entry to practice exam?**

A – Examination candidates have three attempts to successfully complete the COPR entry to practice exam. If you are unsuccessful on your third attempt, you will be required to complete a new training program and reapply for the exam process.

### **Q – How long will I have to successfully complete the COPR entry to practice exam?**

A – You have one year from the date on the certificate/transcript submitted to the branch by your training institution to successfully complete all of your required exams.

### **Q – Is the COPR entry to practice exam fee in addition to the licensing fee?**

A – Yes, BC charges a fee for a licence; the COPR entry to practice exam fee is in addition to the provincial licensing fee.

**Q – What is the difference between an exam fee and a licence fee?**

A – An exam fee is the fee paid to the exam provider for the opportunity to take the COPR entry to practice examination; the licence fee is the fee paid to the province for a successful exam candidate to obtain a licence and be registered in BC.

**Q – Does the EMALB receive any funds from the COPR entry to practice exams?**

A – No, the EMALB does not receive any funds from the COPR entry to practice exam.

**Q – Where can I find information about the COPR entry to practice exam?**

A – Information about the COPR entry to practice exam can be found in the [COPR examination Handbook](#).

**Q – Is there information on studying available for the COPR entry to practice exam?**

A – Information on studying for the COPR entry to practice exam can be found in the [COPR Examination Study Guide](#). The study guide also includes sample questions, a list of abbreviations and acronyms, and reference text books. **Please Note:** you are not required to purchase additional reference text books, the text books and program materials provided in your training can be used to prepare for the exam.

**Q – Is there a preparatory test I can take to prepare for the exam?**

A – Yes, information on the preparatory test can be found [here](#).

**Q – What other exams are required in order to get licensed in BC for the PCP and ACP licence categories?**

A – All licence applicants for the PCP, and ACP licence categories are required to successfully complete the COPR written examination and the BC jurisprudence exam.

**Q – Do I have to complete the COPR entry to practice exam prior to scheduling the jurisprudence exam?**

A – No, the exams may be completed in any order.

**Q – For PCPs why did EMALB decide that classes starting after March 1, 2016 would be required to complete the COPR entry to practice exam?**

A – This date was chosen by reviewing all currently recognized training institutions' posted 2016 schedules to ensure a fair transition for every BC PCP candidate, but still ensures that all PCP graduates would be transitioned to the COPR entry to practice exam by January 2017. PCP candidates that start a PCP program prior to March 1, 2016 are exempt from the COPR entry to practice exam and will be required to complete the current EMALB written exam, practical exams and the BC Jurisprudence exam.

**Q – For ACPs why did EMALB choose that classes graduating after September 20, 2016 would be required to complete the COPR entry to practice exam?**

A – This date was chosen to ensure that the ACP class graduating in 2016 would not be required to complete the COPR entry to practice exam, but still ensure that all ACP graduates would be transitioned to the COPR entry to practice exam by January 2017.

**Q – In what cities will the COPR entry to practice exams be held in?**

A – The BC locations for the COPR written exam are Burnaby, Nanaimo, Kelowna, Prince George, Richmond, Surrey, Vancouver and Victoria.

**Q – Are the four COPR entry to practice exam dates listed on the COPR/OCPR website the only date options for writing the exam?**

A – Yes, the COPR entry to practice exam is run four times a year in multiple locations. The schedule for the COPR entry to practice exam is usually available a year in advance on the [COPR website](#).

**Q – Are the COPR entry to practice exams proctored by the Licensing Branch?**

A – No, the exams are proctored by the company that was awarded the contract for the COPR entry to practice exams.

**Q – Is the Licensing Board confident that all aspects in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 of the Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation will be addressed?**

A – Yes, the Licensing Board is confident that the COPR entry to practice exam covers all of the competencies required for entry to practice in all of Canada including British Columbia.

**Q – What is the current connection with the EMALB and the COPR organization?**

A – To ensure that BC practitioners have proper representation at COPR, there are various members of the licensing branch that sit on committees for COPR on behalf of the board. These seats include the COPR Counsel, the COPR examination committee, the COPR information sharing work group. In addition there are two BC practitioner seats on the COPR exam working group.